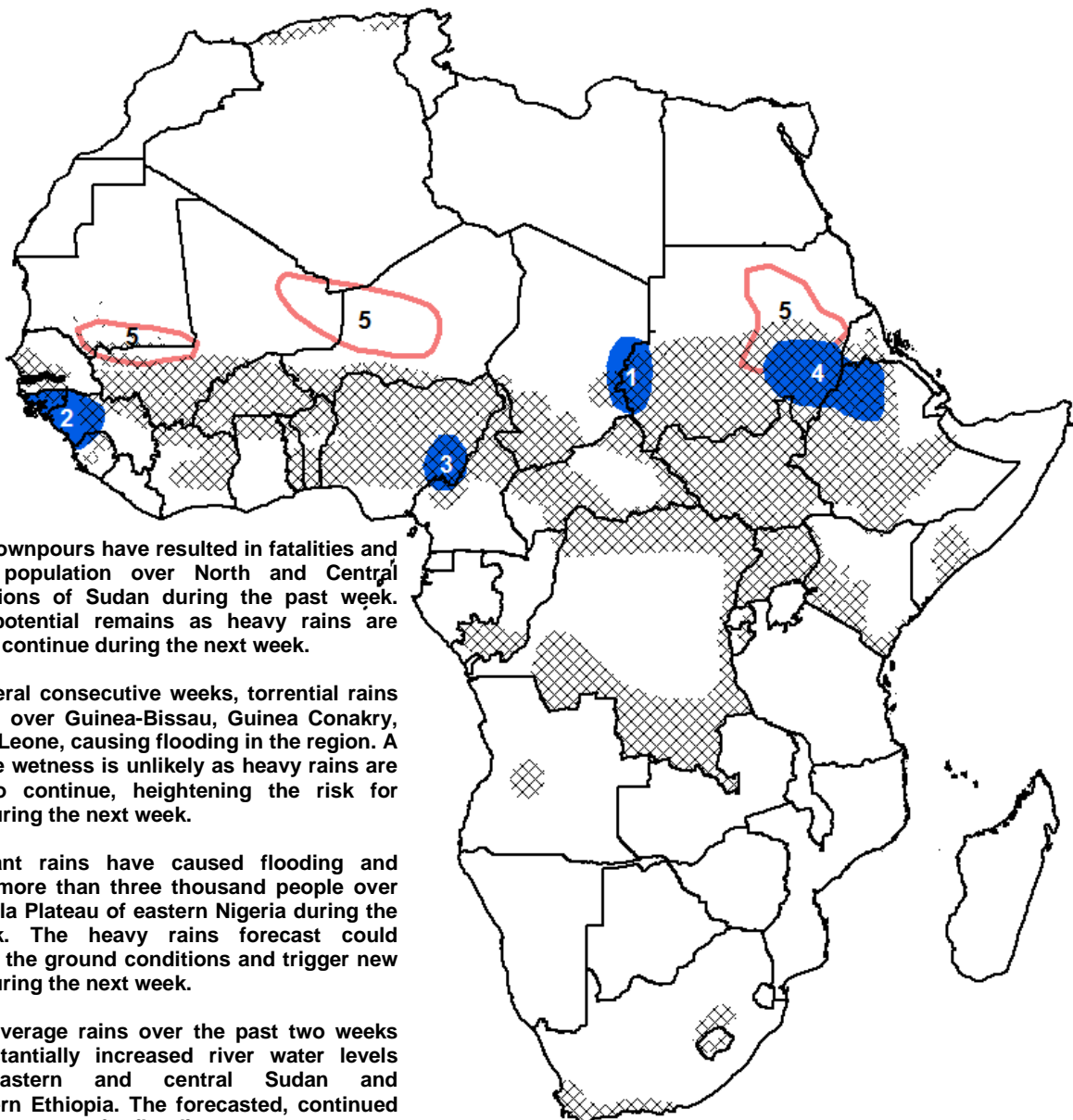


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET August 9 – August 15, 2012

- Torrential rains continue across the western portions of West Africa.
- Widespread heavy rains were observed across eastern Africa.
- Hatching eggs and low-density locusts increase the potential for locust outbreak over many regions.



1) Heavy downpours have resulted in fatalities and displaced population over North and Central Darfur regions of Sudan during the past week. Flooding potential remains as heavy rains are forecast to continue during the next week.

2) For several consecutive weeks, torrential rains have fallen over Guinea-Bissau, Guinea Conakry, and Sierra Leone, causing flooding in the region. A relief to the wetness is unlikely as heavy rains are forecast to continue, heightening the risk for flooding during the next week.

3) Abundant rains have caused flooding and displaced more than three thousand people over the Mambilla Plateau of eastern Nigeria during the past week. The heavy rains forecast could exacerbate the ground conditions and trigger new flooding during the next week.

4) Above-average rains over the past two weeks have substantially increased river water levels across eastern and central Sudan and northwestern Ethiopia. The forecasted, continued rains grow concerns for flooding.

5) The anomalous poleward position of the Inter-Tropical front has favored the breeding conditions for desert locusts over the southern Mauritania-western Mali border, central Niger-eastern Mali, and east-central Sudan. The continuation of above-average rainfall during August could increase the potential for locust outbreaks across many regions.

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.

XXXXXX	August Cropped Areas
Green	Favorable
Green with diagonal lines	Somewhat Favorable
Blue	Flooding
Yellow	Short-term Dryness
Brown	Drought
Green with diagonal lines	Improving Drought
Red outline	Potential Locust Outbreak

Widespread, heavy rains observed over West Africa.

During the past week, West Africa saw a widespread distribution of rainfall, with abundant (> 75 mm) rains stretching from southern Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone, southern Mali, Burkina Faso, to western Niger (**Figure 1**). While rain amounts in excess of 180 mm were recorded over Conakry, Guinea, Sikasso of southern Mali also received 104 mm of rainfall. Farther east, Niamey of Niger observed 76 mm of rainfall, indicating a robust spatial distribution of rainfall during the past week. Meanwhile, moderate to locally heavy (> 40 mm) rains fell along the Niger-Nigeria border and eastern half of Nigeria. In Nigeria, the above-average rains during the past week have caused flooding and landslides, leaving more than three thousand displaced people. Localized flooding was also reported in Nguru over the Yobe State of northern Nigeria during the past week. The continuation of excessive rainfall could adversely impact cropping activities over the wet portions of West Africa.

Due to an irregular distribution of rainfall since the start of the rainy season, localized areas of Niger have experienced weak to moderate (< 50 mm) rainfall deficits. In Niamey, rains have, however, increased over the past three weeks, gradually eroding moisture deficits accumulated over the past ninety days (**Figure 2**). Yet, additional, consistent rains are still needed to eliminate rainfall deficits and provide adequate soil moisture for crop development throughout the remainders of the season.

For next week, anomalous westerly flow and enhanced phase of the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) are expected to enhance rainfall again across West Africa, particularly the western and southern parts of Mali and Niger. Heavy rains are forecasted to persist over Guinea and Sierra Leone. Consequently, this maintains the risks for flooding over the region. The potential for flooding remains over eastern Nigeria as locally heavy rains are expected across the northern half of the country during the next week.

Favorable rains continue in eastern Africa.

Widespread, heavy rains were observed across western and northern Ethiopia during the past week. This has helped to maintain (eliminate) rainfall surpluses (deficits) in many local areas of the country during the past thirty days. The above-average rains have improved vegetation conditions over many local areas of Ethiopia as indicated in the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) Anomaly during the past ten days in **Figure 3**. In Sudan, the torrential rains during the past week have helped to substantially raise river water levels in eastern and central Sudan, raising concerns for flooding. Over Darfur, heavy rains have resulted in fatalities and displaced population. Meanwhile, more Ebola patients were detected and treated in the Kibaale district of Uganda. For next week, seasonal, heavy rains are forecast to continue over western Ethiopia, while moderate rains are expected across eastern Sudan. In contrast, reduced rains are expected over northeastern Ethiopia.

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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